

THE TIMES DAILY MAGAZINE PAGE

Sheer Waste Is Shown In Household Closets Filled With "Stechnery"

Purchasing a Fine Art—Buying Clothing, Remnants, Bargains or Apparatus on Caprice Prevents Real Thrift.

By MRS. CHRISTINE FREDERICK

THE economist often says that this is a wasteful nation. We are called a wasteful nation, and have had dinged into our ears the trite information that the French or German or other European housewife could live in luxury on what we throw away. But I have another view of waste which seems all too familiar among certain groups of housewives, and that is the purchasing of articles, clothing or utensils which are in no sense investments, but sheer waste. I know house after house where if an inventory were taken, possibly 25 per cent of the household effects would not be in use. There is, for instance, the habit of buying small amounts of fabrics, lace, materials, etc., with the idea that "some day I can use this for so-and-so."

Unprofitable Investment.

But the chances are that the time is put off and put off, and that there gradually grows an accumulation of what my good-old Scotch grandmother called "stechnery." Boxes of remnants, bits of cloth, bits of this and that, trimmings all laid away idle, not being of use, and practically dead investments. There is one friend I have (and she laughingly admits her fault), who has an immense chest full of ripped-up dresses, pieces and enough materials to clothe a Belgian breed line. There is lying dollar after dollar's worth of unused unprofitable investment.

Again, most household closets disclose not skeletons, as we are led to believe by popular scandal-mongers, but apparatus, devices or products unused by any member of the family. There is,

for instance, the exercise enthusiastically purchased by mother "to reduce," and used by her fully four times in a burst of middle-aged vanity, father purchased a vibrator thrice, and then was put on the highest shelf of the tallest closet and forgotten. The famous remedy that sister bought to enhance various charms lies, also, forlorn, while a newer nostrum is the present favorite.

Bought for Caprice.

To top the collection of "stechnery" the family attic will reveal the mandolin whose dulcet strains issued only one summer or the flute, which little Henry begged for and which he promised to practice faithfully every single day. Then there is the hand-sewing machine, useless washing devices, wonderful wonder-workers printed off by suave and genial agents. There is the hand basin and the foot tub, now unused because of installed plumbing, or the student lamp which Archie doesn't need any more, and the portieres which are too good to throw away, and which were discarded when new because the color wasn't as pretty as mother thought when she bought it. All, all "stechnery." Dead waste and time-taking household "has-beens." Now, you may say that in the evolution of the family certain furnishings are naturally outgrown and outworn, even though they have lived through usefulness. But my point is that too many of the contents of these boxes and closets were unwisely chosen in the first place; were bought for a caprice, for a bargain or on impulse, and not on a basis of use and permanence. Purchasing—how important it is—how far removed from fad and fable and fancy, it is truly a fine art!

Homemakers Will Find Broader Powers For Expression in Ballot, Observes Dancer

She's No Militant, Sees Man's Point of View, Believes Woman Can Keep Refinement With Ballot, and Urges Study of Political Economy.

By MABEL E. WINSLOW.

"SUFFRAGE is to me a synonym for freedom—a chance for expression. Every self is a suffragist, though she may not call her independence by that name."

Maud Allan, dancer by profession and suffragist by conviction, looked extremely grave and sweetly determined as she delivered her little profane. She is the true English type, from the clear complexion and waving brown hair to the British way of spelling her name. Miss Allan, who speaks at a suffrage meeting this afternoon, and who started to talk of her views on a number of subjects, confessed that she simply did not know what she was going to talk about when she faced that crowd of women.

"I could talk any day about my art," she exclaimed, "and if people asked me questions I might be able to answer them. I can't give any data, you know, just observations."

She settled herself comfortably in a cozy chair and proceeded to "observe" most charmingly.

"As I said, the right to vote is another medium of expression when extended to women. Just as dancing is a form of bodily expression, the voting privilege can be made a medium of mental expression."

Powers of Expression.

"I have always sought to broaden my powers of expression, but it hasn't taken me from my home life any more than voting will take over women from their homes. I have my own little castle in London that I earned myself, and I'm proud of it as Punch, because it's something I won for myself."

"Women have always been homemakers. They take care of children as a time when a man has no use for them. Most men think of children as little nuisances, you know. If a man thinks a woman is fit to bring up his boys when they are at the most impressionable age, ought he not to think she has sufficient mentality to vote? Ought she not to have the right to decide on laws which will, perhaps, concern her most intimately in her capacity as a home-maker? Of course she should."

"A man goes off in the morning with his tummy filled, leaving the woman to do the cleaning and washing and cooking. He comes home in the evening and she has to be cheerful and pet him back to good humor. He's usually been scarcely suspect of voting, so that when the time comes when they will gain the privilege they will know how to use it."

Three Minute Journeys

By TEMPLE MANNING.

IN a tour through Germany some years ago I chanced upon what lingers in my memory as the strangest church I have ever seen and one that is intimately connected with a legend that would be hard to duplicate for the thrill of romance. It is located at Oberstein, and it is hewn out of the solid rock of a towering cliff. This is its story:

In the fourteenth century, in the days of the robber barons, there lived in Oberstein the reigning count and his younger brother. The count was a man of wonderful physique, famed through the land for his strength and agility, and his brother was no less a marvelous specimen of manhood.

They were without rivals in the friendly contests of skill and muscular prowess with which the days of feasting and idleness were spent, and were unmatched in the frequent battles that brought them their wealth. Indeed, the Count of Oberstein and his brother were the two biggest men of their day in the land where they lived.

Never separate, but living their troubled lives at each other's sides and spending their quiet moments in each other's company, the count and his brother one day chanced to meet a beautiful young knight, daughter of a neighboring knight. Both the count and his brother fell desperately in love with the young lady, she was the cause of the quarrel which led to tragedy and the building of the church hewn out of the rock.

High up above the cliff in which the Church of Oberstein is hewn, stood the castle of the baron. Its turrets rose still higher into the sky. And it happened that upon the topmost wall of the ancient castle the count and his brother came to a reckoning and fought out their fight on the castle walls. Back and forth they strove, with bare hands their only weapons, and at last the younger one weakened. The Count of Oberstein raised his brother in his huge arms and cast him over the castle wall.

Then the count was rent with remorse. As his brother's body still hung in midair before it plunged to the death, the count cowered that where the body should fall he would erect a church to his memory. The erection of the church began the very next day.

The problem of the church was not likely to affect the situation against suffrage. Women simply cannot be bullied into doing what they don't want to do. They are more finely wrought than men, and can perceive deceit and wrongdoing oftentimes when men scarcely suspect it. (Graft methods won't work with women.)

Changed Attitude.

"If men didn't fear women would the ants among them need to issue such remarks of literature? They're afraid of a civic housecleaning, especially in the Eastern States that are fighting for suffrage this autumn. I won't say that graft will go when women vote—Rome wasn't"



MISS MAUD ALLAN.

In business matters that may be worrying him. A woman's viewpoint is often valuable because it is so keenly analytical, yet few business men will take a woman's point of view, because woman's place is the home."

Study of Economics.

"I feel that the vote will come to women without much effort if they will educate themselves along lines of political economy. Few men voters know the laws of their country and their State, yet women aren't supposed to know enough about the Government to have a hand in it. Women may also gain a great deal by asking intelligent questions on civic subjects from men who know. They should find out as much as possible pertaining to the subject of voting, so that when the time comes when they will gain the privilege they will know how to use it."

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Seen In The Shops

By THE SHOPPER.

A windowful of shimmering oriental rugs are a temptation to the housewife who wishes to take advantage of fall furnishing sales. Any one of the rugs in the collection sells for \$20, and the colors are so dull that they don't tempt themselves to almost any color harmony.

Gloves of washable glass kid are likely to prove the despair of the French cleaner. Though appearing to be of the common, gasoline-cleaned variety, it is claimed that they can be kept at snowy whiteness by the use of a pure soap and water. Those of white stitches with black are most stunning, and the latter, when compared with the absence of tints to the cleaner, small, being \$1.50.

A four-and-a-half pound bar of cattle soap at \$1.50 is a good investment. First of all, the soap is hard, does not melt rapidly, and is the purest known. Second, only as much soap as is wanted need be cut off at a time. Even one has had difficulty in handling awkwardly large pieces of soap.

White castle is an ideal both soap and shaving especially for infants where a mild, non-alkaline article is desired. Hairdressers nearly always use the green castle for patrons with light hair. It is said to give a shimmer that white soap cannot effect.

Telephone Main 6250 and ask "The Shopper" or information giving the names of shops which carry the articles referred to in these columns. Mail inquiries should enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope or postal card for reply.

Miss Maud Allan, Suffragist by Conviction, Comments of Native British Social Evolution, Needs, and Privileges—Cites Some Examples.

built in a day—but women will work surely, if slowly, for that purpose. "I will never give my support to militant methods. Several years ago in England the militant suffragettes asked me to use my influence for them and I said then that I would never approve a cause where women threw aside their natural refinement and tried scratching and throwing stones."

"You can scarcely realize how the attitude has changed toward suffrage in England since the suffragettes adopted different methods. English women today are doing men's work in the most efficient manner. They run cabs and act as policemen and porters. Canadian women are donning khaki and shouldering arms, yet men say that if women want to vote, they should be willing to join the army. How many of those who say that have ever shouldered a gun in defense of the country?"

"Another argument that is a favorite with men is that women will lose their femininity if they vote. Nonsense! How can a woman lose it by putting a piece of paper in a box, any more than she does when she plays bridge and loses her husband's money?"

Keep One's Refinement.

"Would it not be better for women to learn more politically than to spend their afternoons going to pink teas? If suffrage takes them out of their home, doesn't the round of social life do the same? Couldn't women do something a little more profitable than spending their spare time at embroidery and card parties?"

"We could best prepare for suffrage by introducing a study of political economy even in the lowest grades. The younger generation would then grow up knowing their part in civil life, girls as well as boys. Most women studying at home and children taught in the schools, it will not be long before an intelligent class of women will be developed."

"I do hope that women will be quiet about it when they do get the vote, as they will in time of course. A woman need not sacrifice her native refinement to be a suffragist any more than she needs to cut her hair short and wear stout shoes. The more calmly she uses her privilege the more influence she will have."

"Women want to co-operate, and they want it most tremendously. They will get what they want if they go about it correctly. In Sweden the women didn't exert themselves to get the vote, and they didn't make much of a fuss over it when they did get it. That is the ideal way."

Miss Allan has been "observing" rather informally—one could never call it an interview—until a bellboy summoned her to the telephone. "Now, you can see," she concluded, "that I won't know what to say on Monday. Why I never made a speech in my whole life."

Bacteria Are Benefactors Of Mankind

By DR. L. K. HIRSHBERG.

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O NE of the most important of our benefactors, the bacteria, are the good things that are blazoned to the skies, the good things that do us more good than the good things that are blazoned to the skies.

Bacilli, the thought of which brings to the mind typhoid, tuberculosis, lockjaw, dysentery, and an army corps of human ailments, are the source of life and health more often than of death. While there are less than a hundred varieties and species of disease-producing microbes, there are tens of thousands which initiate forces valuable to nutrition, to agriculture, wine, and beer making, vinegar, and bread production, and to other more or less vital necessities of man.

Nitrogen, so essential to human substance and existence, so necessary to the soil and growing things, finds its way into the ground by means of bacteria. The universal scientific view, before Pasteur's discovery of germs and their power of fermentation, was that rain streams washed ammonia—a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen—from the air into the earth.

Pasteur by experiments and observations, was the first to discover that so-called "spontaneous generation" of life from air and water, was nothing less than the life of microscopic creatures, called bacteria, ever present in earth, air, water, and unseen places.

Even the nitrates or saltpetre of Chile and other places were found to be formed by germs. By means of antiseptics Pasteur and his pupils found that nitrates were no longer produced in soils usually rich with them. Another investigator, a Russian, discovered the nitrifying bacteria, those beneficent germs which literally devour the supposedly useless nitrogen of the atmosphere and convert it into ammonia, nitrate, and other nitrogenous compounds that sustain life on earth.

Irrespective of the bacteria and molds that help to make cheese, butter, vinegar, bread and other human food, the activities of germs as first aids to man, do not stop here. Some of them even make iron and sulphur compounds for human use.

Prof. Charles E. Marshall, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has pointed out that the soil in the light of germs may be considered a substance which has for its groundwork minerals plus living things.

By means of their growth upon the minerals, water and air, microbes of the soil are the benefactors of man. The product of their life and well being are the pulchrum which give vegetation its existence. If all germs were destroyed, the active machinery of the soil, those self-same microbes, would cease and no new generations would arise. Human life would be extinct.

PERSONAL ADVICE.

Readers desiring advice should remember:

1. To address inquiries to Dr. L. K. Hirschberg, care of The Washington Times.
2. To enclose a stamped and addressed envelope if a personal reply is desired.

Bleaching Vacation Tan

Summer's Coating of Brown Removable By Honey, Lemon, and Almond Oil—Removal of Moles.

By LUCREZIA BORI.

THE "buds" of society, but lately returned from vacations spent out of doors, are exerting every effort to repair the damages done by wind and sun. Color must be restored to their sun-burned tresses, and tanned skins must be bleached white before these fledglings can be presented to the social world.

It is a well-known fact that the skin of the face responds more readily to the process of bleaching than the covering of the throat. And if the debutantes are to have necks and shoulders of ivory whiteness, to harmonize with the dainty white "presentation" frock, it is high time that they begin to remove the summer's coating of tan.

The first step in this process is to prepare the skin for bleaching. Scrub it vigorously with a complexion brush, using hot water and a bland soap. After cleansing the skin in this manner dash it with cold water to harden the tissue and prevent flabbiness. Follow this with an application of bleach made by combining these ingredients: Strained honey, 1 ounce; lemon juice, 1 teaspoonful; oil of bitter almonds, 6 drops.

Mixing and Applying.

Mix these and add the whites of two eggs and enough almond nival to form a paste. Take a rather long strip of linen or antiseptic gauze and spread over it a layer of the bleaching paste. Wrap this about the neck and allow it to remain overnight. This "bleaching stock" will work wonders in a short time. The results will be hastened if the bleaching process is continued during the day, whenever this is possible.

Besides using the "bleaching stock" keep the skin of the throat, neck, and shoulders moist with constant moistening with the following lotion:

Ingredients: Rosewater, 1 ounce; tincture of benzoin, 1 dram; glycerine, 1 ounce.

Then the neck should be massaged with the ingredients, and the tissue will become firm and well nourished. Twice a week is sufficient for this part of the treatment, unless your neck is on the thin to appear well in a low-cut frock. After the skin has been thoroughly cleansed rub the following skin food into the pores: Oil of sweet almonds, 4 ounces; white wax, 6 drams; spermaceti, 6 drams; powdered borax, 2 drams; glycerine, 1/2 ounce; orange-flower water, 2 ounces; oil of neroli, 15 drops; oil of bigarade (orange skin), 15 drops.

How to Mix.

When mixing this, melt the first two ingredients, add the glycerine to the orange-flower water and dissolve the borax in this mixture; then pour slowly into the blended fats, stirring constantly.

Now gently pinch the neck, throat and shoulders all over, using the tips of the fingers. Perhaps the word "kneading" instead of pinching, would better express just what I mean. A strenuous massage will melt away the tissues, while a gentle kneading of the flesh will promote their growth.

I have had several letters asking for a remedy that will remove moles from the neck. These blemishes should never be tampered with by an amateur. Consult a skin specialist and follow his advice. If the mole is on the throat it can be covered by wearing a band of black velvet or maling. Fortunately, fashion approves of the little vanity at present, but it should never be worn when out of fashion, as it will look freakish.

A beautiful neck is essential in the age of collarless blouses, so the old maid must, as well as the debutante, that sun-brown necks may become ivory white before the winter social season begins.

ADVICE TO GIRLS

By Annie Laurie

Dear Annie Laurie: I am a young girl of eighteen years, and am employed as stenographer in the city. As I am a rather homesick, and would like to have your advice as to how to meet people about my age.

W. H. D. A right away! The dues are only \$1 a year and there are ever so many classes you can join that will afford no end of fun. If you would rather teach than be taught, you can volunteer as a worker at one of the settlement houses, offering to help a certain number of night's a week. You will meet a number of charming people among the workers.

Dear Annie Laurie—I am a young girl very fond of flirting, and I know it isn't just the thing to do. I don't mean any harm by it, but never so far as to let anyone pick up a conversation. What would you do?

UNCERTAIN.

Stop it. I don't see how you can bear to be in constant danger of having undesirable acquaintances force themselves upon you just to satisfy your love of admiration. That is what makes you enjoy flirting—the element of danger it holds. A girl who has the reputation of being a chronic flirt pays the penalty of never being taken seriously. Even though she at last meets a man whom she considers worth while, don't you suppose her kind friends will say to him: "Oh, she's a flirt. She doesn't mean a thing by it"—and she loses her chance for

happiness, while the man thinks she has been using him for a plaything.

Dear Annie Laurie—When a couple is married, it is proper to congratulate them both, and if not, which one?

When a child is born, who is the one to be congratulated?

MAY BELL.

The groom is always the one to be congratulated. One wishes the bride happiness, but does not congratulate her.

Both parents may be congratulated, perhaps the mother more especially.

Miss Laurie will welcome letters of inquiry on subjects of feminine interest from young women. Readers of this paper, and will reply to them in these columns. They should be addressed to her care, this office.

Four Kinds of Women

(As the Suffragist Sees Them.)

She who wishes the vote and knows why she wishes it is a patriot. Follow her.

She who wishes the vote and does not know why she wishes it is awakening. Take her to hear a good suffrage speaker.

She who does not wish the vote and does not know why she does not wish it is a social nonentity. Pity her.

She who does not wish the vote and knows why she does not wish it is a traitor to her sex and her country. Shun her.

—The Evening Sun.

So Crisp —and Delicious, too!

There are definite reasons why the **New Post Toasties** are vastly superior in crispness and flavour to any other corn flakes.

In the new process of baking, intense heat raises tiny air "puffs" on each flake, bringing out a decidedly new and delicious flavour—the true flavour of the corn—unknown to the corn flakes of the past.

Owing to this new process the **New Post Toasties** maintain their crispness until eaten and do not grow soft and mushy in the bowl like other corn flakes.

The flavour is so delightfully pleasant that the **New Post Toasties** may be eaten and relished dry, though of course they are generally served with cream, rich milk, or fruit with a sprinkling of sugar.

Suppose you try the

New Post Toasties

—at all Grocers.